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BRIEF MENTION

OLD TESTAMENT

RYLE, H. E. *The Book of Genesis. In the Revised Version, with Introduction and Notes.* ["The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges."] New York: Putnam, 1914. \$1.10.

The "Cambridge Bible" has long lacked its opening book. That need is now supplied. There is no lack of good commentaries on Genesis for all classes of readers. The class to which this appeals is already provided for by Driver, Wade, Bennett, and Mitchell. But doubtless this volume, being in this famous series and its author being a well-known leader in the church, will find many readers whom its predecessors have not touched. The work is well done. It makes no contribution to existing scholarship; but that is not the purpose of the series. Its author is well informed as to the results of the best scholarship and has used them fully in his interpretation. The standpoint is that of historical criticism, but the application of critical methods is cautious and moderate. The volume is thus admirably suited to the needs of the average man. The literary sources of the text are indicated by the appropriate symbols in the margin. Half a dozen half-tones and two maps add to the interest and attractiveness of the book. An appendix gives illustrative materials from Babylonian and Egyptian records. The introduction is clear and sufficiently full, without becoming wearisome. The comments are really helpful in the interpretation of the text.

Hammurabi's date is now known to have been 2123 to 2081 B.C., i.e., about a hundred years later than the dates accepted by Ryle. The old statement that the name "Jehovah" was first so pronounced by Petrus Galatinus in 1518 B.C. is reiterated. But George F. Moore, in the *American Journal of Theology*, Vol. XII, pp. 34 ff., showed clearly that this pronunciation was in vogue before the days of Petrus Galatinus, since the latter discusses the subject in such a way as to show that he is not introducing a new pronunciation but defending an old one. The transliteration of Hebrew words is of little value in this type of a book and, if done at all, should be done with careful consistency. The excavator at Susa was de Morgan (p. 167). The book as a whole is notably free from errors.

J. M. P. S.

DUHM, B. *Das Buch Jesaia übersetzt und erklärt.* Dritte, verbesserte und vermehrte Auflage. [Handkommentar zum Alten Testament.] Göttingen: Vandenhoeck und Ruprecht, 1914. xxiv+459 pages. M. 10.

Twenty-two years after its original issue this famous commentary reaches its third edition. Its author tells us that "no page and often no sentence has remained unchanged." Along with this change in subject-matter goes a change from roman type to German. This is a part of the general movement in Germany to maintain the superiority of all things German; but the German type is harder upon the eyes. The change in content is not vital; indeed, there is no single change of first-rate significance. For example, in the entire Introduction to the commentary the more important changes are but three in number and they are of but minor significance at that. On p. xv, the new edition is less certain than its predecessor as to the date at which chaps. 40-66 were welded into a unit. On p. xvii, 29:56-7 is not assigned to 711 B.C., as it was in the former edition. Lastly, on p. xix, 14:22 f. is not credited to a contemporary of Deutero-Isaiah, as in the second edition. The changes are, for

the most part, both in Introduction, translation, and comments, either the substitution of one more accurate synonym for another or of a smoother rhetorical idiom or the addition of brief interpretative suggestions here and there. The large number of these minor changes constitutes a great improvement in the commentary. Attention to details such as these makes for perfection.

The literature of the last decade has left little impress upon this commentary. As in the earlier editions, Duhm contents himself in the stating fully and clearly his own views and pays little attention to contrary views. The opinions of this edition are essentially those of its predecessors. As a matter of fact, the interpretation of Isaiah, since the issue of the first edition of this work, has gone mainly in the direction indicated by that epoch-marking book. Yet we ought to have here an evaluation of the more recent work affecting Isaiah. No more important question presents itself in the interpretation of Isaiah than that of the proper treatment of the eschatological and messianic materials. Gunkel and Gressmann have opened up a new avenue of approach to this problem. Duhm gives no recognition to this suggestion. He is content to travel in the path that he marked out twenty-two years ago.

J. M. P. S.

EISZFELDT, OTTO. *Israels Geschichte*. [Praktische Bibelerklärung.] Tübingen: J. C. B. Mohr, 1914. 52 pages. M. o. 50.

This compact little book deals in a thoroughly critical fashion with the principal events in the life of the Hebrew people, from their beginning to the exile, having in all twenty-seven short chapters arranged in seven divisions, and prefacing each chapter with brief quotations from the Old Testament text. The style is clear and simple, and the writer has a facility in pointing out in a few words the religious as well as the political importance of the events mentioned.

The book follows the modern line: The patriarchal period does not furnish us history; Hebrew tribes reach Palestine after 1400, some of them wander to Egypt about 1300, are led out by Moses after 1250, and are in the west-Jordan country before 1200; the conflict with the two types of Baalism is clearly pointed out; and the period of the Kings and Prophets is dealt with in brief though pointed characterizations of men and messages.

D. E. T.

SANDERS, FRANK KNIGHT. *History of the Hebrews*. Their Political, Social, and Religious Development and Their Contribution to World-Betterment. New York: Scribner, 1914. xiii+367 pages. \$1.00.

This book is intended as a textbook for classes in undergraduate Bible-study and may serve as well for elementary theological classes. Though the writer disclaims any originality as to material, the volume shows the results of a vast amount of work. The most characteristic thing about it is its arrangement and the method of study for which it prepares the way. After eight short introductory studies covering in all only 17 pages, the author divides his entire work into five parts and follows the analogy of the principal periods in the physical and mental development of an individual life; viz., (1) Childhood, (2) Adolescence, (3) Maturity, (4) Mental and Spiritual Productivity, (5) Age of Fixed Convictions. To these correspond in Israel's corporate life, (1) The Patriarchal Period, (2) Settlement in Canaan to the Disruption of the Kingdom, (3) From Disruption to 586, (4) 586 to Ezra and Nehemiah, (5) Judaism down